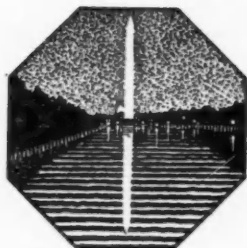


# Journal of The American Institute of ARCHITECTS



FEBRUARY 1944

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Can the Architect Capture the Small House?

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Reconstruction in the U.S.S.R.

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The Mentor?

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Ammi B. Young

Norman M. Isham

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Chapter News

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Union or Profession?

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The A.S.C.E. and Collective Bargaining

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# JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

FEBRUARY, 1944

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## Can the Architect Capture the Small House?

*By Miles L. Colean, F.A.I.A.*

THE perennial problem of how to bring architectural service to the small home buyer is likely soon again to raise its perplexing head. The history of The Institute's effort to solve it is a long one and deserves credit at least for being what Mr. Hoover termed a noble experiment. That, even with the help of governmental agencies and the assistance of lender and manufacturer support and promotion, it has ever become much more than that, can be seriously questioned.



As one who has watched and participated in some of the attempts to develop a system for providing limited architectural service for the individual small house owner, it is my considered opinion that no system devised to date has been even moderately successful except for short times in a few areas. By "successful," I mean a wide use of the service and a notable contribution to the income of the architects who have taken part.

I believe that the reason for this lack of success lies in the fact that the partial-service schemes have not fitted into the main house-building and house-buying trends. On the one hand we have a group, perhaps small in relation to the total housing market, but important with respect to its resources and its tastes, that wants, and is willing to pay for, a definite expression of individuality. On the other hand is the much larger group, where the itch for individuality is not overweening and where price and a generally accepted standard of style and comfort are the paramount considerations.

For the first group, no scheme for partial service can fill the bill. The owner who wants a house tailored to his personal needs and desires, and who is willing to take the time necessary to create such a house, needs all that the architect can give him. There is evidence of an increasing recognition of this fact by owners, representing a wide range of income; and, among such owners, architects should be able

to find good hunting once the suppressions and restrictions of war are over.



We must admit, however, that this group makes up a rather special class, not representative of the housing market as a whole. To the extent that it exists, the problem of the architect is one of selling the value of his creative skill and not of cutting rates or of offering a semi-standardized article. But for the market as a whole, the problem is quite different.

Most buyers—and I think this is true of increasing numbers of buyers—want to see what they are going to get and want to know exactly what it is going to cost. They may lack the imagination necessary to visualize the finished result from drawings. They may not be able to risk the chance of extra cost always present in the specially designed house. They may not want to wait the months necessary to carry a house from plan-making to occupancy. They may be willing to sacrifice individual preference for what (so important in the case of resale) they may feel to be a general market preference, or for the savings in price that can be achieved through large

operations involving some standardization of design. Such buyers never have gone directly to architects and I doubt if any bait can lure them in that direction. They tend more and more to go to builders who either have a suitable house for sale or can show a model quickly reproducible at a definite price. To the housing problems of this group the partial-service scheme has obviously little application.



To whom then does the partial service idea, offered through some sort of collective effort, appeal? It can provide lenders and material dealers with valuable promotional material at little or no cost to them. It can offer builders superior designs at less than they ought to pay for an architect's collaboration. It will reach the occasional owner who is unwilling, or who thinks he is unable, to pay a standard architectural fee. In the latter case the architect is likely to be either victimized for the cost of changes, or adroitly able to transfer the case to a regular fee basis—an outcome which, however, he can hardly bank on.

The basic weakness of the partial-service plan is that it attempts

to provide a professional service before there is a client for the service. I don't believe canned architecture can be sold any more successfully than canned law or canned medicine. If this is true, how is the architect to get his hands on typical small house business? The answer lies in his ability to sell himself to the people who produce rather than to those who buy the houses, for, since buyers of this class seem determined to go to the builders, the architect can hope to get to the buyer only through the builder.



The building of small houses has become a sizable and responsible business. Concentration of production in the hands of builders doing a relatively large number of houses a year has been advanced during the war, and these builders are almost certain to be the dominant factor in post-War housing production. Large developments, repetitive operations and industrial methods are definitely with us in the housing field, and are certain to have increasing emphasis. The trend is not one that the architect, or any other force in the building field, can long and successfully hold back. But the architect can accept

the trend for what it is and can find an important place for himself in it.

The producer of houses, whether he be the operative builder or the prefabricator, needs the architect. As in the evolution of all mass operations, the importance of good design increases as the movement progresses. Competition among producers, as well as competition with the existing supply, forces the accent on design—not only on the design of the separate housing unit but of the group of which the unit is but a part in the larger design. Recognition of the need for design steadily grows among the more competent builders. And here the architect's problem is simply to show him how he is to get it.



Certainly this means some modification in the traditional methods of professional practice—though I doubt any more fundamental departure than is actually embodied in some of the limited-service plans. The architect may serve as a consultant on a fee or retainer basis. He may become part of a producing organization and share in the profits. He may work on a salary. All of these are legitimate ways of making a living and of

making use of his skill. He is no less an architect for adopting one of these means, if by so doing he enlarges his contribution to the cause of better buildings and better communities.

In any case the choice is a fairly clear one. He can either devote himself to individual clients (of whom the woods should be full, at

least in the first post-War years) and follow the traditional pattern of practice. Or he can go after the new and bigger game—the group builder and the factory fabricator. In either case he is dealing with a client and not with a mere hope, and is providing a specific service to meet a known requirement. A satisfactory solution can be worked out on no other basis.



## The Mentor?

*By Charles Butler, F.A.I.A.*

**P**ERHAPS the best way to explain the Mentor is to tell how he came into being. Some years ago, before the depression, when architects' offices were still busy places, there took place a routine meeting of the New York State Board of Examiners of Architects. At that time graduates of architectural schools were exempted from the written examinations and allowed to secure their license by passing an oral practical examination.

Ten graduates of leading schools, who had completed three years of office work after receiving their degrees, appeared before the Board. All brought with them excellent

exhibits of drawing and rendering, but on the practical examination, which included no calculation but consisted of simple questions which any practical architect should be able to answer, nine out of the ten candidates were flunked.

Shocked into action by this occurrence, a group of architects got together on their own initiative to seek a solution of the problem. The school men in the group thought the others had called them in to blame them for not giving their students practical training, and the representatives of the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards thought the practicing

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architects and the schools proposed to put the blame on them. When both groups discovered that the practicing architects were inclined to accept most if not all the blame, they became most cooperative, and the Committee on Preparation for the Practice of Architecture began its career with the blessing of the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards, the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture, and The American Institute of Architects.



The situation in those days was such that any graduate of a good school could step at once into an office at a good salary. Naturally his employer put him on the work for which he was already fitted, and never had him write specifications, check shop drawings or superintend construction. The result was that after three years of office experience he actually knew less about the practice of architecture than when he graduated. Unfortunately we have not the advantage which the young medical students have, of being able to acquire ample experience through working as hospital internes under older men.

The final conclusion of the com-

mittee was that what the young graduate most needed was the help of an older architect who would be his advisor during the years between graduation and admission to practice. Various names were suggested for him and finally, *faute de mieux*, he was duly brought into the world and christened Mentor.

Our idea was that the mentor would be the employer, or preferably an architect outside the candidate's office, who would keep in touch with him and check up with him as to the experience he was acquiring in various lines. The mentor would be in a position to talk to his employer and to arrange to have him get experience outside of the work he was actually engaged on, even though he had to work without pay for certain hours spent on the job, or on other work for which he had not been trained, and had to make up the time lost by working overtime.



We are all familiar with the tragedy of the young architect who gets a job and fails to make good on it through lack of practical experience, to his own discredit and that of the profession as a whole. It is our belief that the mentor will help his protégé to avoid this

sort of experience. Most of us felt that the relationship between the mentor and the candidate would be an informal one, though some, with our national love for systems and forms, thought it should be more strictly defined. One of our group even wanted to describe the candidate as a mentee! It is dreadful to think of the number of illegitimate children the imported word, employee, has produced.

The N.C.A.R.B. has set up a definite system, under which the mentor is selected by the Council if the candidate has no preference. The Council has also determined in principle that no one may be approved for admission to the Junior Examination leading to the Council certificate, unless his mentor certifies that in his judgment the candidate is prepared for the examination. Lack of funds and the war have made it impracticable to carry out the plan in its entirety.

Some Chapters of The Institute have set up lists of members who agree to serve without pay as mentors, but many seem to have failed to realize that in rendering this service to the young men seeking to enter practice, they are in truth serving themselves and the entire profession.

I cannot do better than quote

from a document of the National Council prepared a few years ago by William Emerson, at that time Dean of the School of Architecture at M.I.T.



"The student will look to his Mentor for clarification as to the relative importance of the multiple details that comprise architectural practice. This analysis must then be interpreted in terms of the student's individual capacities and weaknesses. The Mentor may reasonably expect from his student intelligent cooperation in carrying out his recommendations. The student should show a devotion to his task that recognizes the sacrifice of time and energy which the Mentor is voluntarily contributing. He should be as ready to recognize his weaknesses as he should be eager to correct them. Correspondingly, the Mentor, having outlined the major objectives that lie ahead, will aid the student in securing from the head of his office opportunity to so adjust his office time as to fulfill this program. His time should not be too largely spent at the drafting-board, he should become acquainted with all aspects of the work and its administration. He should get out on the job, see how concrete is

mixed, check the time sheets—in short, learn the relationship between the written word in the specifications, the indicated lines on the drawings, and the executed work in the completed building.

"Obviously, the Mentor has no mean job on his hands if he is to adequately fulfill such a responsibility as is indicated above. It is therefore in order to ask what sort of man should our Mentor be? In the first place, he should command the respect of the profession. He should be both broad-minded and fair-minded, as ready to see a problem from the student's standpoint as from his own. He should be a man of high standards, both as to architecture and as to ethics. He should have such qualities of human understanding as to readily win the student's confidence. His

knowledge of architectural practice should be both sound and profound. He should be a man of such character that his ideals and personality count for even more than his knowledge—in short, guide, philosopher, and friend.

"Such a man (who is not a superman but a wise human being, and his like can be found throughout the length and breadth of our land) can set a student's feet firmly on the road that leads to successful professional accomplishment and at the same time establish such a relation with the coming generation as will be a source of untold benefit to both.

"In such a mingling of the experience of age with the enthusiasm of youth lies a great opportunity for our profession."



### A.I.A. Committee Appointment

**P**RESIDENT Ashton has appointed J. Andre Fouilhoux as one of the representatives of The Institute on ASA Building Code Correlating Committee for the 1944-45 term, with Charles B. Meyers as his alternate for the same period.

### The Producers' Council

**T**HE National Warm Air Heating and Air Conditioning Association, 1001 Society for Savings Building, Cleveland, Ohio, has recently been elected to membership in The Council, with George Boedener, Managing Director, as Official Representative.



# What Are Architectural Students Being Taught?

*By Frederick Vernon Murphy, F.A.I.A.*

HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE, CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA

**L**EARNING is discipline. At the moment, students who would otherwise be engrossed in peaceful studies in the college schools of architecture, are learning to fly, to march and to destroy with mathematical precision. We hope the discipline of the school will soon prevail. It may develop that some of the training of mind and body will prove beneficial in the education of students ultimately destined to practice architecture. In the interim, one may analyze the interrelationships between the school and the practice of the profession.

The schools have kept constantly aware of their responsibilities, and have adjusted their curricula from time to time to meet future professional requirements. There has existed a healthy difference of opinion as to teaching methods, length of courses and other details of more or less importance. In general, the schools have made a sincere and concerted effort to anticipate the problems that would arise in a professional career, and to train the intelligence to be able to interpret

them wisely. Inasmuch as the profession itself was constantly changing, for better or for worse, the schools have had a real task in coordinating the activities of the student mind with the routine of the architect mind. From hypothetical suppositions the schools were endeavoring to prepare for a reality that contained certain intangible elements. On the whole the schools were fairly successful.



As a student of architecture, I was taught composition, proportion and scale. In fact, the Vignola, the handmaiden of design in those days, was said to have been almost infallible as a guide. One was taught to draw, cast shadows and do perspective. Architectural history was seriously considered. Travel in foreign countries and the making of measured drawings were encouraged for all, and demanded of the recipient of the traveling scholarship. The reflex of all these adventures was supposed to inculcate a capacity to design. It seems



to have succeeded, and tribute should be paid to the method and to its exponents.



What is done about this matter of design today? We still have the same array of geometrical solids, dating from the time of Euclid, and much the same materials of construction, with some few exceptions, as were employed by the Romans. Speaking only as a representative of Catholic University, we are a bit nonplussed by the turn of things architectural. One has the feeling that the bottom of what was solid in design has dropped out. But there is no real reason for pessimism on this score. We must learn to judge and then to teach by the new standards. Our language and literature, our music and our national outlook have changed. Why should architecture not admit of change or why fail to welcome it? The architectural vernacular of 1920-25 is inappropriate today to express our architectural emotions. We must adjust ourselves to the new problems and confront them with confidence that the same capacities at least remain with us. Even from the new we may abstract what is best, and from the tried we may guide the student

mind toward the goal of "fanning his own flame" of creative ability.

Drawing, rendering and the study of architectural history are still given in the college of architecture in much the same manner as they have always been given. Construction courses likewise occupy an important position. As they are based upon physics, mathematics and mechanics, they belong strictly to the field of science. We doubtless laid too much stress upon "presentation" in the past, but now cultivate the expression of the verities, cold as they may seem.

The factor of skill varies greatly among students. Some, although otherwise immature, possess it to a high degree. This has led us at times to mistake it for ability to design. New skills are quickly acquired by some students, and are inspired by professional work published in the architectural periodicals. Planning, however, which is mental rather than manual, begins to be better understood and the vocabularies of facades and of ornament are meagre. All of this, of course, mirrors the production of the day.

We still carry on with stylistic studies, which perhaps in the past led us far afield, but which, in the estimation of a conservative, tend

to develop a sense of form, solid and void, color, texture and the proper placement of ornament. Architectural pedagogy of yesterday was not without merit. Even correctly considered studies of *poché* brought attention to the three dimensions, and unless done strictly *per se*, was a valuable exercise in architectural composition.



We have always related construction as closely as possible to design, although I have never held the opinion that working drawings should be stressed very greatly in college training. Of course the gap between graduation and the first job in an office is something of a problem. Registration is exacting, and should be even more so, but an equilibrium of studies must be retained. Many of the subjects in the curriculum are not of apparent, immediate value to the student, and he shuns them or does them just well enough to pass. At Catholic University we adhere to the opinion that the fundamentals of a classical education offer the best foundation upon which to build. It should precede purely technical training.

From time to time the *esprit de corps* of any school may vary. Some

students find real enjoyment in their work—even tend to overwork. There are those who accept the following of any program of studies as drudgery. Outside influences always depress or stimulate as the times are good or bad. At the present, with the world at war, discouragement may easily exist.

Our interests as a nation have become broader, and the profession regards this as most fortuitous. The students are aware of this fact and feel that they will fit into the society of the future in many more capacities than ever before. They are most conscious of the increasingly important position of the engineer. They express desires to understand engineering subjects. The study of economics has become proportionately popular.

Students are very receptive to suggestions, although some seek positive opinion and fail to search for the best solutions of their problems. We need free discussions at all times, from various viewpoints. Group work in correlated problems in architecture and sculpture seems to interest them. Landscape possibilities, industrial design, town and city planning, housing, zoning—all have entered the curriculum, and we plan better adjustments to them. The value of law school elective

courses has already been felt, and a new school of speech and drama has given the student body an important social outlet.

Courage is necessary at this time, when we are at a crossroads in government, in sociological and educational endeavors. The artist and the architect are not to become extinct. Intellectual achievement will go on, and there is every reason

to believe that better things are in store for the future. Though many of us at the moment may suffer from a temporary "black-out," there can be no serious pessimism in a nation where a student is conscious of his own dignity as a person, one moment carrying a gun to defend it and the next holding a pencil and a T-square to preserve it. May we speed the day of the latter.



## Reconstruction in The U. S. S. R.

*By Nikolai Kolly*

MEMBER OF THE U.S.S.R. ACADEMY OF ARCHITECTS

Reprinted from the *Journal of the R.I.B.A.* for December, 1943

**B**EFORE the war in the Soviet Union, years of peaceful creative work under the Stalin five-year plans had been marked by large-scale building operations as a substantial contribution to the rise in the national standard of living.

Houses and public buildings and whole cities had been built throughout the country, and thousands of architects, builders and engineers had been employed. When the war came this building activity continued in the vast interior territories, in the Urals, in Siberia

and in the flourishing cities of the Asian republics where new industrial centers and even new cities were built beyond enemy reach. Now the same activity is extended in the wake of the Red Armies throughout the liberated western areas and in all the hundreds of towns and villages which the Germans have deliberately demolished and left in ruins. Vast new and urgent problems arise for Soviet architects in the restoration of these towns and villages, which must be rebuilt not only with the utmost

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speed but to be more beautiful and in every way better than they were before.

The Council of the Peoples Commisars has set up a Committee on Architecture, under the chairmanship of Arkady Mordvinov, to control the building activities of all the organizations and institutions involved in reconstruction work. All urban planning and the design of building projects is subject to the Committee's approval, and the Committee is also responsible for the actual carrying out of projects. To the individual architect the Committee is in the position of guardian and ally in the realization of his creative design.

The question of the production of well-designed standards for housing and for other mass-produced building is regarded as of special importance, but not without reference to local conditions. In town planning particular attention is being paid to climatic and topographical peculiarities and local building customs and traditions. The Committee has been charged with the task of preparing the basic standards, and will have final supervisory authority when works are carried out by other bodies and individuals.

Another matter directly affect-

ing the quality of the architecture and the decorative work involved is the quality of the materials and the organization of the materials production. The architect's design may be excellent, but impossible of effective execution if the materials are lacking or faulty. Thus the Committee has also the duty of supervising materials standards.



The scale of pre-War building production will be exceeded in the near future, and big demands will be made on all sections of the building professions and the building trade workers, necessitating a planned distribution of technical services, studio and craft workshops. This also is part of the Committee's duty.

Scientific research is under the supreme authority of the U.S.S.R. Academy of Architecture which has direct representation on the Committee.

The Committee also is responsible for the direction and supervision of architectural and building arts education. Special attention is paid to the training of artists and craftsmen, including sculptors, mural painters, wood carvers, etc., to work in association with the architects. The restoration of ancient

monuments destroyed by the ruthless brutality of the German Fascists is another task within the Committee's authority.

To give effect to the Committee's policies the various Republics and the cities of Moscow, Leningrad and Kiev have formed architectural departments under their regional and provincial Soviets. Local control is assured by the appointment of Chief City Architects

in many cities, who will work under the Committee's supervision and will thus have authority derived directly from the central State organization.

In their restoration of the cities and buildings destroyed by the vandalism of the Germans the architects of the U.S.S.R. have as their aim the creation of a Soviet architecture in every way worthy of their country.



## New York's Projected Air Freight Terminal

*By Lawrence M. Orton*

MEMBER, CITY PLANNING COMMISSION, NEW YORK CITY

Condensed from an article in *Citizen's Housing Council Housing News*, January, 1944

THE IDEA of an airport at Idlewild (Long Island) had its inception in the decision of the Navy to take over Floyd Bennett Field, and of the city to use the \$9,000,000 thus made available in the development of a new municipal airport suitable for the handling of air freight. What was thus started as a sizeable undertaking, utilizing the swampy upland bordering on Jamaica Bay at the Nassau County line, has since been enlarged to include over 3,000 acres

extending well towards Cross Bay Boulevard and the Rockaway branch of the Long Island Railroad.

The design of the field has been progressively revised to increase both the size and the number of aircraft it can handle, as well as the auxiliary services that can be provided. Care has been taken to assure satisfactory highway and rail connections.

Anyone is bound to admit that technological developments affect-

ing air transportation are coming so rapidly these days as to make definitive planning for future air traffic a hazardous business . . .

The plan for the development of London, recently issued under the auspices of the London County Council, has preferred to beg the question entirely. Barely a page is devoted to the subject of air transport, the argument being that not enough is now known to plan airports with any assurance.



New York's is the wiser course. If recent developments mean anything, they suggest that air transportation will require large terminals located within areas that are free of natural or man-made obstacles which might interfere with aircraft approaching on relatively flat angles of flight. Where the terminal is to serve a very large city, location within easy range of the centers of the city's economic activity is an obvious necessity.

The only difficulty with this apparently common-sense formula is that it is frequently impossible of fulfillment. The scattered development around most cities is usually

such as to prevent acquisition of an unobstructed tract of sufficient size within a reasonable distance.

Here, as in the case of express highways, New York's natural setting on great bodies of water proves a godsend. The broad marshlands bordering Jamaica Bay might some day have come into intensive development, but the handicaps imposed by nature have been sufficient to keep them virtually unused until now. The broad expanses of Jamaica Bay itself provide not only numerous unobstructed water approaches, but the sand to fill the uplands, at the same time that exceptionally fine seaplane channels are being dredged. All these natural advantages, together with the anticipated development of post-War commercial air traffic, argued for the construction of at least this field in the one location within the city suitable for the purpose, and with the least possible loss of time.

Besides, ownership and unified development of an area of this extent will be an asset, in any event; if any part of it is not needed it can be disposed of under conditions advantageous to all concerned.

"As long as civilization remains on earth, the attainment of harmonious proportions will be of moment to man."

—ERNEST FLAGG

FEBRUARY, 1944

## England Seeks A National Photographic Record

*From the Journal of the R.I.B.A. for December, 1943*

SINCE its inception in 1941, the National Building Record has been concerned with records of historic buildings, especially in view of the possibilities of damage by enemy action. It is intended, however, that when the Record comes to be established on a peacetime basis, it shall cover the whole range of English architecture and make available, for students and the public, illustrations of contemporary as well as ancient buildings. In considering such an extension to the Record's work, it is apparent that collaboration between the N.B.R. and the architectural press would be of the greatest value.



In normal times a first-class record of contemporary architecture is regularly compiled on the initiative of the professional press. Highly qualified photographers are engaged on this work, but the negatives, after being retained by the photographers for a limited period, are destroyed. After a few years, only the published halftone reproductions and a few worn file prints survive.

The N.B.R. has already approached the Institute of British Photographers and several individual architectural photographers with a view to reaching a general agreement as to the regular purchase of selected architectural negatives by the N.B.R.

There remains, however, the question of the use of these copyright negatives by the N.B.R. The following suggestions are outlined merely for comment and discussion.

1. The N.B.R. shall, under an agreement with each newspaper, be permitted to supply prints, at the Director's discretion, to those who require them, at standard prices determined by the Record.
2. Each print supplied shall be marked with the name of the copyright holder, and the words "Not to be reproduced without the written permission of . . . . ."
3. The responsibility of the N.B.R. for infringement of copyright shall not extend beyond the marking of prints in this way.
4. All questions relating to reproduction fees shall be settled between the purchaser of the print and the copyright holder.



It is anticipated that prints would be asked for chiefly by architectural and other students and by educational and propagandist bodies. Requests for reproduction in the form of slides may be frequent, but it would only be practicable for the N.B.R. to make slides where the copyright holder had given a general consent for this to be done.

The objects of the N.B.R. in initiating these proposals are, first, to secure the conservation of a representative number of architectural negatives of new buildings and, second, to provide a public service for which there is an obvious need and which should tend greatly to

promote architectural studies. It is appreciated that in the case of copyright negatives handled by the N.B.R. the copyright holder would be making a sacrifice if the prints did not pass through his hands; but it must be remembered that the vast majority of the negatives concerned would be destroyed if they were not purchased by the N.B.R., negatives being the absolute property of the photographers concerned.

The proposals outlined above are of a tentative nature but it would be extremely helpful to have some indication of the extent of collaboration which may be anticipated from the copyright owners concerned.

## Mr. Churchill Speaks on Architecture

MR. CHURCHILL'S recent remarks about parliamentary procedure and architecture have been variously reported, sometimes as a single sentence, sometimes more fully. As a matter of record, here is the Associated Press version.

*London—Oct. 28.* The bomb-shattered House of Parliament should be rebuilt with its oblong shape, said Prime Minister Churchill today, because a semi-circular

chamber "appeals to political theorists and enables every group to move around to the center, adopting various shades of pink as the weather changes."

Proposing to the Commons that it name a committee to consider plans for rebuilding, Mr. Churchill remarked, "We shape our buildings, and afterward our buildings shape us."

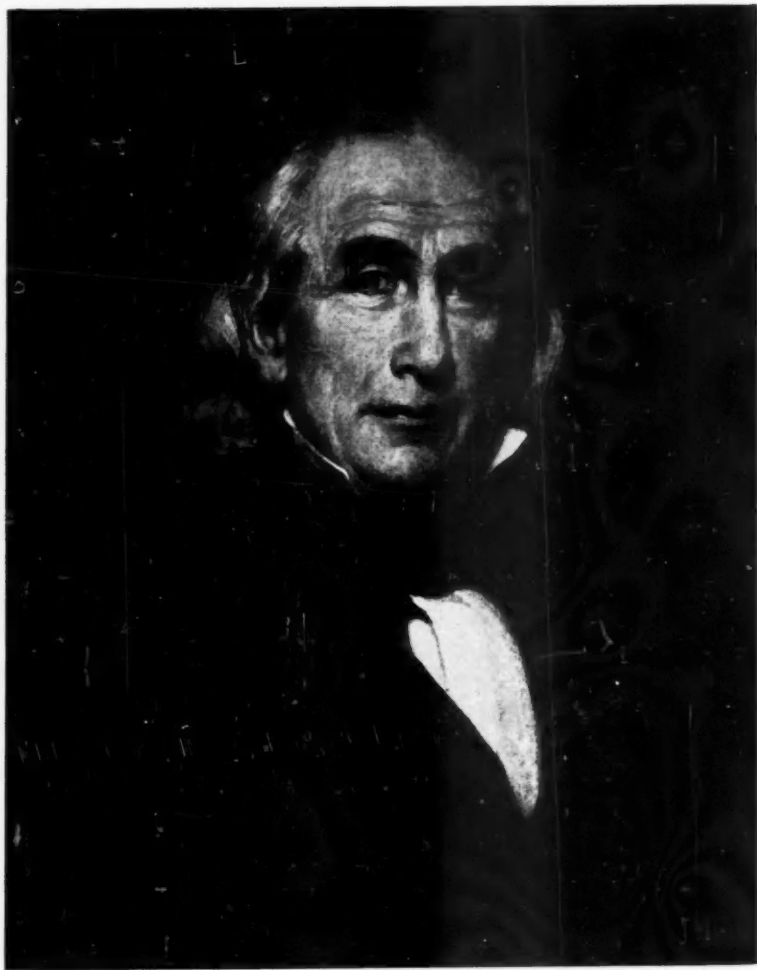
Calling the oblong shape of the chamber "a very potent factor of





YEZD, IRAN: THE CITY WALL  
12TH TO 14TH CENTURY

*Photograph by Architectural Survey of The Iranian Institute*



AMMI B. YOUNG

First U. S. Supervising Architect, 1852-62

*From the portrait in oils by L. Boyle, 1856*

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our political life," Mr. Churchill said:

"I'm a supporter of the party system, having seen many ardent parliaments destroyed by the group system. The party system is much favored by an oblong chamber. It is easy enough to move through those insensible gradations from left to right, but the act of crossing

the floor is one which requires serious consideration. Logic is a poor guide compared to custom."

"Logic, which created in so many countries the semi-circular assemblies which give every member not only a seat, but often a desk with a lid to bang, has often proved fatal to parliamentary government."



## Ammi B. Young

*By Edwin Bateman Morris*

**B**EHIND the desk in the Supervising Architect's private office there used to hang a portrait of a gentleman who had that kindly, hard-boiled, wistful, shrewd, child-like, happy, faintly melancholy expression one usually associates with architects. It was the visage of the talented and exemplary Ammi B. Young, the man who in the middle of the last century took the lamp of Federal architectural responsibility from the hand of Robert Mills and was the first person actually to bear the title of Supervising Architect.

Young was commissioned in 1840 to design the Boston Custom House, the Greek Revival structure whose dome later sprouted

upward to become the high obelisk office-building which is the present Custom House. It was about this time that Mills first began to feel the elbow of new political authority nudging him out of his office as "Federal Architect," a position he had held since 1836.

It was impossible for Mills not to see in Young's appointment as architect of the important Boston building, a shadow on his own career and a lessening of the need for his own services. His treatment of Young, therefore, was very correct, but tinged with an exact sort of justice. For instance, when Ammi suggested that he be sent abroad to study custom houses,

Mills did not concur, stating with an acid logic, "I should judge that the Government, which pays him for his professional skill, ought not to be at the expense of its acquisition."



In 1842 the Secretary of the Treasury, apparently fortified by having a fount of architectural advice in Ammi Young, sent a brief note to Mills asking him to vacate the room he occupied in the Treasury building, a billet Mills could only consider as one of final dismissal.

This left Young, actually though not by official appointment, as successor to Mills. The actual appointment did not come until later. On September 29, 1852, he was formally appointed to the job Mills had, to which, however, much financial and construction responsibility was added. Because of this added administrative duty, the title, instead of Federal Architect, became Supervising Architect. The salary was \$3,000 per annum.

He held the position until July 24, 1862. At that time, doubtless because of the inflammatory rheumatism with which he was afflicted, his connection with the Government was severed. In a note from

Secretary Chase of a brevity comparable with the one sent Robert Mills twenty years before, Young was notified that as of that date he was no longer Supervising Architect.

Young was born in 1800. As a young man he designed Thornton Hall and Wentworth Hall at Dartmouth College. Later for the college he designed Reed Hall, for which he was given an honorary degree and, financially, the sum of \$277.75. He also designed the Vermont State House, for which the University of Vermont gave him an honorary degree. Whether there was a financial consideration also, is not recorded.

In the construction of Reed Hall at Dartmouth, a not unpleasant arrangement existed. The architect was Ammi B. Young, the contractor was Dyer B. Young, and the interests of the college were represented by Ira Young. The three were brothers.



On March 14, 1874, at the age of 74, Ammi Young died in his house at 407 15th Street N. W., Washington, D. C. The Washington *Evening Star* of that date says: "He was one of the most faithful and upright of public officers, and

his administration of public affairs was marked by ability and the strictest integrity."

The fine sweet face in his portrait is indicative of such a person. As Supervising Architect, he put

into working operation the idea for the furthering of which Robert Mills spent his life, the theorem that public buildings should be designed and erected not by committees of laymen, but by architects.



## The A. S. C. E and Collective Bargaining

By Ezra B. Whitman

PRESIDENT, AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS

Reprinted by permission from *Civil Engineering* for November, 1943

A MOMENTOUS step indeed has been taken by the American Society of Civil Engineers in the decision of the Board of Direction that Leadership shall be assumed by the Society's members in the formation of collective bargaining agencies for "Professional Engineering Employees."

The Society has represented the civil engineering branch of the profession heretofore primarily in technological and educational matters. However, for several years the Board of Direction and its advisory committees have studied and given expression to matters relating to the economic conditions of civil engineers. The question of salaries has been a particularly difficult problem but, from time to

time, the Board has formulated and approved grade classifications and salary schedules which were used to promote the economic interests of engineers in instances where specific groups of engineers needed help.

In recent years, legislative enactments and legal decisions have given and upheld the rights of employees to bargain collectively. In accordance with these recent legislative enactments, the economic status of employees is now implemented by authorized group action. These group efforts have increased, until now all engineers who are employees are aware of the functions and possibilities of bargaining organizations. Some engineers have been forced to

choose between an association composed largely of non-professionals or, without the formation of their own groups wherein a professional attitude can be maintained, to give up their jobs. To forestall such situations, the Board of Direction at its recent meeting at Atlanta approved a procedure recommended by its Committee on Employment Conditions, the objective of which is that the Society will sponsor and assist in collective bargaining procedures in behalf of professionally-minded engineers.



At no time since its formation in 1852 has this administrative unit of the Society made such a momentous decision. By its Constitution, the Society is to work unceasingly for the "advancement of the sciences of engineering and architecture in their several branches, the professional improvement of its members, the encouragement of intercourse between men of practical science, and the establishment of a central point of reference and union for its members." Certainly none of these objectives could be gained by surrendering to non-professional groups the right to interpret employment practices for professionally-minded engineers.

The alternative is the formation of bargaining agencies exclusively for professionals, directed by professionals, maintaining the status of professionally-minded engineers which has been earned by years of service to mankind.



The growth curve of collective bargaining can be plotted closely by a review of legislation pertaining to employee organizations. Successively, the Railway Labor Act in 1926; the Norris-LaGuardia Anti-Injunction Act in 1928; the National Industrial Recovery Act in 1933; and the National Labor Relations Act in 1935, all gave and upheld the right of employees to join together for collective bargaining purposes. In 1938 the Fair Labor Standards Act set minimum wages and maximum hours for employment. The U. S. Conciliation Service was formed in order to facilitate employer-employee relationships and to simplify the workings of the National Labor Relations Board. In order to expedite matters under wartime conditions, the National Defense Mediation Board, and later the War Labor Board, were formed and given the power, not only to conciliate differences between em-

ployer and employee, but to make mandatory decisions in these disputes.

These recent pieces of legislation were enacted to facilitate collective bargaining, and thus collective bargaining groups have grown rapidly in recent years. It is reported that in 1933 there were 3,000,000 members of organized labor; in 1935 there were 4,000,000; in 1940, 9,000,000; and in 1942 more than 11,000,000 members out of a total of 42,000,000 wage earners. It has been only recently that any group action has been taken by professional engineering employees. Several independent bargaining groups have been formed by professionally-minded engineers, such, for instance, as the Tennessee Valley Authority Engineers Association, the Technical Employees Association in Detroit and others.

In addition, two national aggregations of unions, recognizing the fact that many professional and technical employees were in need of group action, seized upon such conditions to bring professionals into associations with non-professionals for purposes of collective bargaining. These unions are the

Federation of Architects, Engineers, Chemists and Technicians, formed in 1933 by the C.I.O., and the International Federation of Technical Engineers, Architects and Draftsmen's Unions, organized by the A. F. of L. A number of less active organizations affiliated with the A. F. of L. or the C.I.O. have been in existence for some years.



Wherever the right of such organizations to include professionally-minded engineering employees has been challenged by interested groups, the War Labor Board has upheld the right of professionals to exercise group action in groups of their own choosing. In cases where the professionals have failed to act, non-professionals have assumed the right to bargain for the professionals and have been given that right by the War Labor Board. Thus the "closed shop" agreement, in a number of cases, has placed the professional type of engineer within the jurisdiction of the union and has obliged him to surrender the privilege of bargaining with others of his kind for his own status. The dispute at the Sunflower Ordnance Works was a typical example of such a case. In this and similar

cases, it has been shown conclusively that individuals cannot successfully resist inclusion in "closed shop" agreements and that they must resort to collective action in order to maintain their rights in appropriate units of their own choosing.

The American Society of Civil Engineers has consistently and actively opposed the inclusion of professional engineering employees, members of the Society or otherwise, in collective bargaining groups where they were outnumbered by non-professionals. It has reasoned that such inclusion was detrimental to independent actions and, therefore, to professional stature. With the encouragement of the Board of Direction, a staff member has interceded in behalf of interested individuals or groups in attempts to gain recognition of the difference between a technician, on the one hand, and a professionally-minded and creative engineer, on the other. These activities have pointed the way to the need for group action by professional engineering employees in groups which are self-financed and self-administered and where the bargaining rights are delegated to representatives of their own choosing.

Stating that a most important factor influencing the present and future welfare of the professional engineering employee was his participation in the determination of his own field of activity and the recompense to be received therefrom, the Committee on Employment Conditions recommended, in its report to the Board of Direction on October 11, that agencies be established which could successfully bargain for the interests of professionals. "If the professionally-minded engineer is not prepared to bargain collectively through representatives of his own choosing," says the report, "collective bargaining will be done for him by representatives selected by an organization with which he may not wish to be identified."



After due deliberation and review of all factors affecting such vigorous action, the Board of Direction adopted the recommendations in the Report calling for the formation of collective bargaining groups by the employee engineers in the Society's Local Sections, and defining the "Professional Engineering Employees" to be accepted into such groups. Included would be those registered engineers, engi-



neers-in-training, members of engineering societies and others who will be found to conform to the terms of the definition.



To assume collective bargaining functions, the Board recommends to the 4 Local Sections of the Society that their Constitutions be amended so as to provide for the engineering employees within their respective areas to form such employee bargaining groups. The Society's staff, themselves employees, will act as the coordinating agency for such local units, rendering guidance. Within each Local Section, it is suggested that a "Committee on Employment Conditions" undertake the responsibility of protecting the interests of the professionally-minded engineers working in their respective areas through appropriate action when called for. This elected Committee is to be, at all times, responsive to the interests of those members and non-members of the Society who wish to be thus represented.

To facilitate this program, four experienced field representatives, one for each of the Society's geographical zones, will be engaged. The experience and advice of these

men will prove invaluable in organizing and guiding the local groups. Moreover, in many cases they may find it practicable to conciliate differences without the aid of the proposed bargaining groups.

As a corollary to bargaining procedures by these local groups, the Board of Direction adopted a Classification and Compensation Plan for Professional Engineering Positions in Major Engineering Organizations, defining several grades into which the work performed by civil engineers in such organizations is usually divided as experience and other capabilities dictate. Each clearly defined position and function is accompanied by the corresponding salary that should be paid.



The Society's Committee on Salaries, whose Report the Board adopted, specifies salaries to be paid to those newly graduated in engineering and to those engineers of greater experience for whom salaries of \$9,600 and up per year are appropriate. The Report states clearly, moreover, that many positions of greater responsibility are not to be limited to that figure.

This expansion of the service

which the American Society of Civil Engineers is continuously rendering the profession will affect in no unfavorable way, I believe, its values as a great technological

and educational institution, but will supplement those values with others, related to the economic condition of those engaged in the work of the profession.



## Union or Profession?

By Clement J. Freund

DEAN OF THE COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING, UNIVERSITY OF DETROIT

Excerpts by permission from an article in the November, 1943 issue of *The Foundation*, official monthly publication of The Engineering Society of Detroit

ONE THING must be clear before proceeding with this more or less delicate discussion. This article is not inspired. There are no secret collaborators. The article does not in any way represent the policy or viewpoint of the Board of Directors of The Engineering Society of Detroit or the editor of *The Foundation*. It is nothing more or less than it pretends to be. Nobody except myself can be held responsible for it or any portion of it.



But I protest that I have given thought to the problem of unionism in engineering. I have had to because it so happens that it is my business to train young engineers,

and in that business I have often enough become entangled in unionism perplexities.

Unionism is an issue in engineering. There is no question about it, whether you like it or not. Labor unions are penetrating into engineering occupations. The leading technical union is the Federation of Architects, Engineers, Chemists and Technicians (F.A.E.C.T.), affiliated with the C.I.O. Officers of the Federation boast of more than 8,000 members, although there is no evidence that they have recruited men of unquestioned professional standing . . . In the Federation's 1940 convention they undertook a campaign to require a union label on "all drawings, erection diagrams, surveys, plans, shop

FEBRUARY, 1944

and field details and laboratory reports." I could multiply figures, names, places and facts.



I have no quarrel with a legitimate labor union in its proper sphere. If business men have the right to join trade associations and chambers of commerce, then employees have the right to join unions. But that is not now the question. The question now is, what shall be the labor union policy of the engineering profession?

The young engineer who is less than five years out of college seldom has more than a meager income. If he is married and has a growing family, his bills for milk, clothing, groceries and rent may amount to more than he earns. If, then, an alert and aggressive union organizer promises to get him more pay, and right away, the young man will certainly at least listen to what the organizer has to say.

But if he is conscientious he does not join immediately. He is puzzled. He is conscious of the traditions and ideals of the profession. Is it proper for him to join a union? He does not know. It seems to me that he is entitled to an answer and that the engineering profession ought to give him one.

I do not know, of course, what kind of answer the leaders of the profession might formulate, what kind of policy they may some day adopt. But if the young man should come to me and say, "The pressure is on me. Should I join an engineering union?" I think I should counter by asking, "Do you or do you not aspire to professional standing in engineering?" He will demand to know "Just what do you mean by professional standing?"

By professional standing I mean the standing of a comparatively small number of creators and leaders, intellectuals, researchers, organizers and administrators of industries and other engineering projects, who face lay officials and the public, fully conscious that they, and they alone, must answer for what they do. They are universally recognized as professionals. Dr. Wickenden calls them the "inner professional nucleus."

Everybody knows, of course, that there are thousands of men in the broad field of engineering who do not have professional standing, in spite of their skill and excellence. They are the draftsmen, testers, instrument men, checkers, calculators, experimenters, technicians, subordinate functionaries of one kind or another, who do not assume

full responsibility but work under direction. Dr. Wickenden has referred to them as the "great engineering fraternity."

Everybody knows, likewise, that college graduates rarely pass from the outer "fraternity" into the "inner professional nucleus" before they are four or five years out of college. Very many of them, unfortunately, never achieve professional standing at all.

There may be no sharp line between professionals and others, as in medicine or law, and many thinking engineers have no desire whatever to draw such a line, but it is never difficult to distinguish those engineers who clearly have professional standing from those who clearly do not have professional standing.



I tell the young man all this, or remind him of it and then say, "If you aspire to full professional standing in engineering and all that it implies—dignity, respect of the community, respect of your fellows—you had better not join a union." I say that to him because it seems to me that a profession and a labor union are so nearly contradictory that he cannot possibly belong to both at the same time . . .

And it requires no painstaking and comprehensive comparison of professions and unions to make this clear; a quick check of one or two points will be sufficient.

A common earmark of all professions is the markedly individual character of the professional man and his work. When he performs a professional task he performs it himself. He may have assistants, hundreds of them, but the full responsibility rests upon him alone . . . The surgeon who performs an operation has the direct help of nurses and attendants, and the indirect help of more technicians, mechanics and various functionaries than he ever thinks about, but he alone must answer for the outcome, and the patient knows it, and so do the nurses, technicians and mechanics. Dr. Wickenden insists that a profession is "a type of activity marked by high individual responsibility." Professor R. M. MacIver contends that "The doctor, the lawyer, the architect, the minister of religion remain individual practitioners." According to Dr. Abraham Flexner, "Professions involve essentially intellectual operations with large individual responsibility." General Goethals was commissioned to build the Panama Canal because he had a per-

sonal individual reputation as an engineer.

On the other hand, solidarity is a common earmark of labor unions. The individual union member is lost in the mass. He expects to accomplish nothing for himself or by himself. The union agent runs his business for him, and the agent represents not him, particularly, but the whole union to which he belongs. The agent never permits employers or the public to forget that they are dealing with no individual workman, but with a powerful workingmen's organization . . .

Surely there is a vast gulf between the professional man's personal work and responsibility, on the one hand, and on the other, collective bargaining by labor union agents on behalf of multitudes of unknown and unidentified workmen. No young engineer can be big enough to straddle the gulf; he must take his stand on one side or the other.

Hairsplitters will argue that there is no gulf at all, that the professional man is personally responsible only for the tasks which he performs, and that this responsibility need not prevent him from joining others of his kind in a labor union to exert pressure for the largest possible compensation. This

is an artificial distinction which cannot be made in practice. Work and compensation for work are too closely bound together in the minds of most people. Can you expect even the most unselfish and public spirited engineer to accept a rate of pay which a union agent who never heard of him has determined for him and a thousand other engineers, in a single negotiation with client or employer? Hardly.



Again, the chief aims of professions and of unions are as far apart as the poles. The principal purpose of professions is to advance the public well-being, and especially, if need be, the public well-being in preference to the well-being of the individual member of the profession. The principal purpose of labor unions is to fight for adequate, or constantly more and more, compensation for the members, depending upon conditions. There are secondary aims, to be sure—to increase membership, to secure contracts with employers, to exert political influence, to control the workingmen in the steel or shipping or automobile industry, to organize strikes—but these are merely auxiliary to the primary aim. One may read page after page of union pro-

ceedings and union publications without finding a single word to suggest that the officers or members ever give thought to the public advantage . . .



It is unlikely that the officers of the F.A.E.C.T. will ever invite Dr. Vannevar Bush to speak before a convention of the Federation and tell the members, as he told the American Engineering Council in 1939, that "In every one of the professional groups, however, will be found the initial central theme intact—they minister to the people. Otherwise they no longer endure as professional groups;" and that "engineers go along heartily in developing a professional consciousness, a code of action, a philosophy which implements a desire to be a truly professional group, oriented primarily toward the advancement of the public health, safety, comfort and progress;" and that engineers should strive for "heights of true professional attainment . . . where the watchword is that old, old theme which has never lost its power, and which may yet save a sorry world, simple ministration to the people."

Can an engineer be a labor union member, attend meetings regularly

as a good member should, listen repeatedly to discussions about wage rates, pay increases, strikes, strike votes, strike benefits, picketing organization, contract arrangements, membership campaigns and organization projects, all having to do with getting more and more for the members (however badly they may need it), and still cherish as the paramount objective of his work, his profession and his life, the well-being of the public, "simple ministration to the people?" A few exceptional men possibly can, the preponderant majority cannot . . . The majority must devote themselves exclusively either to the union, and union aims and purposes, or to the profession, and professional aims and purposes.

At this point my young man may interrupt to say, "All that may be true as far as professional engineering is concerned but I'm no professional engineer, and won't be for a long time. I'm not in responsible charge, I work under direction. Don't you think I should join the union now for what it has to offer? I can use more pay, you know. Afterwards, when I become professional I can quit the union. Why shouldn't I now have what the union can get for me?"

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I am quite sure I should reply, "That seems possible in theory but you can't make it work out in practice. While in the union you would, and quite properly, lean on the union, and permit union officials to fight your battles for you. You would inevitably acquire habits and viewpoints of dependence as a result, and you could not be utterly dependent and at the same time build up the kind of personal, individual reputation for engineering competence which professional status calls for. Do you think you can suddenly discard habits and viewpoints of dependence when you are thirty-five years old, resign from the union, trust to your own resources for the first time in your life, and begin that late to build the personal reputation which you should have been building, and which your contemporaries have been building, for fifteen years? I think you could not. The union will not help you build a reputation. The union is not interested in personal reputations, the union is interested in the bargaining power of hundreds like you, massed together.

"If you desperately need a larger income, if you and your wife cannot possibly exist on the salary

which you can independently obtain, and if you have abundant evidence that the union can actually obtain for you the greater income you must have, then join the union.



"But let me warn you that the price which you must pay for these immediate advantages is almost certain exclusion from professional status later. You cannot be a union man now and a professional man later; you must now choose one or the other. I appreciate that it may be a terribly difficult choice, but you must choose.

"Likewise join the union if you have no desire whatever to become professional, if you lack the confidence to strike out for yourself, if you feel most secure in a group of your fellows, if, perhaps, you are secretly afraid that you will always belong to the multitude.

"If, on the other hand, you and your family can somehow struggle along through the lean and early years, if you can stretch and stretch again to make ends meet, if you are eager to become professional, if you know you can excel and if you are making progress, then you should certainly stay out of the union."

I do not see how engineers, the engineering profession and labor



unions can possibly evade the following conclusions:

1. Draftsmen, testers, technicians, instrument men, calculators, inspectors, operators and others in engineering type occupations will find it practically impossible to achieve full professional standing if they belong to labor unions.

2. Labor unions are just as appropriate among draftsmen, testers,

etc., who do not aspire to professional standing as they are in any other high-class, skilled craft.

3. If great numbers of professional engineers everywhere affiliate with labor unions, either because they choose to or because they are forced to, engineering occupations may continue to flourish, but the profession of engineering, as such, will most assuredly vanish from the face of the earth.



## Chapter News

FROM the annual reports of St. Louis Chapter officers and committees the following items deserve a wider audience:

Ten percent of the Chapter's membership is in the Armed Forces.

St. Louis is already thinking of a Temporary War Memorial, and is setting up an open two-stage competition with the Chapter's aid. Mr. William B. Ittner is to be professional advisor, contributing his services.

Lawrence Hill, retiring president, urges a correlating committee, composed of the chairmen of all Chapter committees, to serve as a sort of helmsman for all operating

forces, and to administer vitamins where the need is indicated.

The Chapter's Committee on Education poses a list of topics on which discussion is urgently needed; here are samples:

Should the B.A.I.D. take a new lease on life by adopting a new cognomen, and emerge as a nationally sponsored Academy of Design with headquarters in Washington?

What shall be done about refresher courses for architects in practice?

THE PITTSBURGH CHAPTER usually does ring the bell in its annual meetings. Reverberations

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from Western Pennsylvania indicate that this year was no exception, with a turnout double that of any previous annual meeting. Twenty-two members were introduced. A Post-War Planning Course on Community Planning was announced (see Carnegie Tech under Educational Announcements). The Unification Program was ratified, with a program calling for a full-time, paid executive secretary to have headquarters in Harrisburg, working towards unification in Pennsylvania by Jan. 1, 1945. Allen H. Neal retired as Chapter president and was succeeded by Lamont Burton. Vice-president, Roy L. Hoffman; secretary, John Phillips Davis; treasurer, Daniel Donald McGervey.

IN THE LAST TWO YEARS the Southern California Chapter increased its membership 37 per cent

(The Institute's growth in that period was between 32 and 33 per cent). Fifteen per cent of the Chapter's membership is in the Armed Forces—from buck private to brigadier general (Yes, they do have one, General Newton). Another 15 per cent has been engaged in other War effort outside of the Chapter territory.



"HIRE A HALL" is what the Boston Society of Architects has had to do for its meeting of March 8. That's what comes from having Governor Saltonstall accept the Society's invitation to be their guest of honor. "Post-War Problems" is the subject of his address; and Harvard Hall is the place of meeting. The S.R.O. sign is sure to be hung at the door by the Society's newly elected president, Joseph D. Leland.

## Norman M. Isham, F. A. I. A. 1864-1943

AT THE Annual Meeting of the Rhode Island Chapter, A.I.A., the President, John Hutchins Cady, F.A.I.A., paid tribute to the Chapter's members who had made significant contributions to the cul-

tural life of the state; among them, Norman Isham who died in Wickford on January 1, 1943, in his eightieth year. Mr. Cady:—

Norman M. Isham, by his writings, teachings and restorations,

interpreted and re-vitalized the American architecture of the Colonial period and that of the Early Republic. He received his early training in the offices of Alpheus C. Morse and Alfred Stone and commenced his own practice in 1892 . . . His professional practice was distinguished particularly for his Colonial restorations. His teaching career covered periods at Brown University and the Rhode Island School of Design.



Mr. Isham was a scholar, ever seeking facts that would add to his store of antiquarian knowledge, accepting no man's word as Gospel and trusting only documentary evidence and what he was able to see with his own good eyes. Of his numerous published books two at least, "Early Rhode Island Houses" and "Early Connecticut Houses," are justly regarded as classics. The material was assembled and the drawings made after years of personal measurements of surviving seventeenth-century houses, in which no detail escaped his eye, and intensive research into the histories of the houses and the inventories of their owners. Having reconstructed graphically the original appearance of those dwellings, he

sought for precedent and found it in the English Gothic cottages of Wilts, Sussex, East Anglica, and other places whence the early settlers had emigrated.

In Mr. Isham's researches into the later Colonial and Early Republican periods the question of precedent, or prototype, became all-important. The names of only six Rhode Island designers of those periods are documented: Richard Munday and Peter Harrison of Newport; Joseph Brown, Caleb Ormsbee and John Holden Greene of Providence, and Russell Warren of Bristol, none of whom had received architectural schooling. Where did Munday, a house carpenter, get his inspiration for the superimposed piers of Trinity Church? What was the origin of Harrison's temple design for Redwood Library? What suggested the profile of the First Baptist steeple to Brown, a scientist? Where did Ormsbee, a practical builder, receive his background for the design of the twin-towered First Congregational Meeting House, or Greene, his apprentice, for that of the present church which replaced it? What suggested to Warren the colossal order used in the DeWolf house? Mr. Isham found the an-

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RANGOON, BURMA: DETAIL OF CARVING

*Photograph by Ely Jacques Kahn*

*Journal  
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*Do you know this building?*

THE NATIONAL ACADEMY  
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swers, or many of them, in James Gibbs' "Book of Architecture," Batty Langley's "Builder's Jewel" and "Gothic Architecture," William Pain's "Builder's Treasure," Asher Benjamin's "American Builder's Companion" and other publications. He traced the influ-

ences on the design of American buildings, in retrospect, through Buckland, Harrison, the Adam Brothers, Pain, Brettingham, Gibbs and Wren to Inigo Jones, who introduced into England the architectural principles of Palladio about 1600.



## Sir Ian MacAlister

NEWS of Sir Ian MacAlister's impending retirement as Secretary of the Royal Institute of British Architects reached the Board of Directors at its December meeting in Memphis. President Ashton was requested to write a letter on behalf of The Board and The Institute, the text of which letter follows:



DEAR SIR IAN:

On behalf of the officers and members of The American Institute of Architects, it is my privilege, as well as my pleasure, to present the following expression of appreciation for the years of friendly association that, thanks to your devoted services, have united us with the Royal Institute of British Archi-

itects in forwarding the best interests of our profession.

Your thirty-six years as Secretary carry us back to the beginning of this century. They have seen a steady improvement in our educational facilities and standards on both sides of the Atlantic; the increasing unification of architects under one national leadership, thereby greatly increasing our capacity for public usefulness; the development of an even better understanding between our two countries. It compasses two world wars in which we have fought shoulder to shoulder for the same ideals and faced the same tragic sacrifices.

In the march of these great events your wise counsel, your generous human understanding, your selfless devotion, have been unfail-

ingly at the disposal not only of British architects throughout the Empire, but of those many Americans whose good fortune it has been to visit and to know the infinite resources of your land. Your help and friendship are vividly remembered.

To you and the years that lie ahead I send the congratulations

and good wishes that such memorable years of service richly merit. May they be warmed by the knowledge of friendship earned in the gallant performance of a worthy labor.

Sincerely yours,

RAYMOND J. ASHTON,  
*President.*



## Books & Bulletins

**ACTION FOR CITIES.** A guide for community planning. Published under the sponsorship of American Municipal Association, American Society of Planning Officials, and International City Managers' Association. 84 pp., 7¾ by 10½ in. Chicago: 1943: Public Administration Service. \$1.

A working outline of what plans are needed; on what data they should be based; how a community is organized for action; how the program may be financed; successive steps of progress, and numerous other details. The guide is based on a technique suggested by the National Resources Planning Board, and tried in Corpus Christi,

Salt Lake City and Tacoma. Experiences in these communities serve to illustrate progressive steps in the program.

**EARTHENWARE (VITREOUS-GLAZED) PLUMBING FIXTURES.** Commercial Standard CS111-43. Issued by U. S. Dept of Commerce through National Bureau of Standards. Available from Superintendent of Documents, Washington 25, D. C.; 5c (stamps not accepted).

**SIXTEENTH CENSUS OF THE U. S. —HOUSING, VOL. IV: Mortgages on Owner-occupied Non-farm Homes. Part 2: Alabama-New York.** 1,092 pp. Avail-

able from Superintendent of Documents, Washington 25, D. C.; \$3. (stamps not accepted).



**WRITINGS ON EARLY AMERICAN ARCHITECTURE.** An annotated list of books and articles on architecture constructed before 1860 in the eastern half of the United States. By Frank J. Roos, Jr. 280 pp. 6 by 9 in. Columbus, O.: 1943: The Ohio State University Press. \$2.75.

The author, who is Associate Professor of Fine Arts at Ohio State, has rendered yeoman service

to our architectural history, past, present and future, aided by assistance which he graciously acknowledges. Whether you seek information about a church on the New Haven Green or a stone farmhouse in Berks County, Pa., this compilation will guide you to what has been written about the subject in books or magazines. It lists 2,782 items, with helpful cross-references and a comprehensive index. Prof. Roos explains that this basic list is not, could not be, exhaustive. Perhaps later editions can gradually expand the record, but the solid foundation has been laid.



"New dwelling units numbering from 560,000 to 640,000 will be required annually after the war to accommodate new families alone."—DR. ROBINSON NEWCOMB of WPB.

"It is only in recent months that men have been able to speak out on plans for winning the peace without fear of public criticism on the ground that they were diverting attention from the necessity of first defeating our enemies. In increasing numbers, people now are beginning to recognize a grave probability of large-scale unemployment during the immediate post-War period unless plans are made at once to prevent it."—COL. WILLIAM N. CAREY, Chief Engineer, Federal Works Agency, in December *Civil Engineering*.



## Reference: B and B 3x-24614

As Head of the Division of Provision for Revision  
Was a man of prompt decision—Morton Quirk.  
Ph. D. in Calisthenics, P.D.Q. in Pathogenics,  
He had just the proper background for the work.

From the pastoral aroma of Aloma, Oklahoma,  
With a pittance of a salary in hand,  
His acceptance had been whetted, even aided and abetted  
By emolument that netted some five grand.

So, with energy ecstatic this fanatic left his attic  
And hastened on to Washington, D. C.,  
Where with verve and vim and vigor he went hunting for the chigger  
In the woodpile of the W.P.B.

After months of patient process, Morton's spicular proboscis  
Had unearthed a reprehensible hiatus  
In reply by Blair and Blair to his thirteenth questionnaire  
In connection with their inventory status.

They had written: "Your directive when effective was defective  
In its ultimate objective—and what's more,  
Neolithic hieroglyphic is, to us, much more specific  
Than the drivel you keep dumping at our door."

This sacrilege discovered, Morton fainted—but recovered  
Sufficiently to wire "We're convinced  
That sabotage is camouflaged behind perverted persiflage—  
Expect me on the 22nd inst."

But first he sent a checker, then he sent a checker's checker;  
Still nothing was disclosed as being wrong.  
So a checker's checker's checker came to check the checker's checker,  
And the process was laborious and long.

Then followed a procession of the follow-up profession  
Through the records of the firm of Blair and Blair;  
From breakfast until supper some new super-follow-upper  
Tore his hair because of Morton's questionnaire.

The File is closed, completed, though our Hero, undefeated,  
Carries on in some Department as before;  
But Victory is in sight—not because of—but in spite of  
Doctor Morton's mighty effort in the war.

*Contributed through GEORGE HARWELL BOND.*

FEBRUARY, 1944



## Architects Read and Write

*Letters from readers—discussion, argumentative, corrective, even vituperative*



### ONE STEP TOWARD A UNIFIED CODE

THE excellent article by our worthy Vice President in the baptismal issue of the JOURNAL, has encouraged into the daylight an Idea which has been skulking around in the back alleys of Consideration. This Idea proposes to put an end to tinkering with at least some of the codes by the simple process of removing the part affected and installing a new unit which does not need tinkering.

The target for tonight is the smaller community of less than 50,000 population, which the Idea would furnish with a brand-new, up-to-the-minute, streamlined, prefabricated code designed to fit the needs of such a community with a minimum of pounds per horsepower.

Any architect who has barnstormed the outlying districts has undoubtedly experienced the motley collection of venerable and moss-grown regulations which purport to set forth the requirements for building design and construction in those towns, but which, after a few conflicting but legal sounding phrases, end up by saying

that the whole thing is really up to the Building Inspector anyway, and you will have to do as he says.

So perhaps we may grant that it would be reasonable to provide these places with the proposed new code, which would actually tell the whole story in a way that could be definitely understood, that would relieve the Inspector of the embarrassment of making decisions that perhaps he wasn't sure of, and would also create a condition where, as you moved from town to town, you would know that the building requirements were not changing as you went.



This code should, of course, deal primarily with the principal construction found in these communities, namely, houses, apartments, stores, restaurants, garages, schools, churches, moving picture theaters and light industrial buildings.

Very rarely, if ever, would any of these buildings be of fireproof construction, and the proportion having even a structural frame would also be very small, indicat-

ing that this field need not be covered in detail to the extent required for a city of greater size having fire zones, and recognizing several classes of fireproof or fire-resistant construction. This point has been emphasized to offset suggestions that have been made for the establishment of a general code for the use of all communities regardless of size, which would prove cumbersome, unduly technical and, in fact, a hardship to our small town or city.

Now, if we agree that the Idea is worthwhile, all we have left to do is to get the code whipped up and put in usable form and then get the towns to use it.

The Idea now steps timidly forward and suggests that the A.I.A. delegate a task force which, in conference with representatives of the technical societies involved, and with competent legal assistance, would assume the responsibility of producing such a code, thereby insuring for The Institute the credit

for leadership and for promoting the welfare of the nation.

After the work is done and duly publicized, some towns are going to try it, and each will find it has acquired a satisfactory code with a minimum of grief. Each town will find that it will be able to relieve from duty the perennial committee struggling with the task of trying to modernize and reform its obsolete code into a reasonable facsimile of what it should be.

Then, as more and more towns accepted our code, a unification of building practice would begin to spread throughout the country and, combining with the recognized trend for better and more standardized regulations in the larger cities, would definitely bring about a high degree of coordination and a stabilized level of standard practice.

So, having said his say, the Idea modestly bows his head and retires to the murky depths to await the verdict of the jury.—HALSEY B. HORNER, A.I.A., Wellesley Hills.

#### A SYSTEM OF REGIONAL AND NATIONAL AWARDS

**W**HEN a man tells of his own achievements, people listen more or less politely and let it go at that. When a man's achievements are proclaimed by an un-

biased source other than himself, that is news.

In a word, that is axiom number one in the science of publicity.

Examples of its operation are to

be seen all about us—the motion picture world's "Oscar" awards, the Pulitzer Prizes in the field of letters, to mention two outstanding instances. The architectural profession has no parallel to these evidences of recognition, with the exception of an occasional competition of one kind or another. It will be recalled that the late Albert Kahn, moved to give \$10,000 to The Institute, wrote to Mr. Shreve: "I cannot help but think that The Institute would do a tremendous good to the profession if more frequent recognition were given members for outstanding work. Three or four awards a year, with accompanying publicity, would, I believe, do a lot toward making the public more Architect-minded. The Pulitzer prizes, the Hollywood awards, those of the Academy of Arts and Letters, undoubtedly do much good for their respective fields."

In his subsequent offer of the money, Mr. Kahn expressed the hope that it would accomplish the same good *for the entire profession*.

Creation of the American Architectural Foundation followed, in the care of which the \$10,000 gift was placed, "to await opportunity after the war," as President Shreve then put it, "to put into

effect the plan which had been developed with Mr. Kahn's approval. In the post-War period, over a number of years, the sum will be expended through a series of awards to be made by The Foundation in recognition of meritorious work by architects throughout the nation."

So much for Mr. Kahn's gift and The Foundation. Whether any detailed plan of future operation was in the mind of The Board back in April, 1943 when the announcement was published in *The Octagon*, we have not been told. In all probability that was left to be worked out in the more tranquil days to come.

What follows, therefore, is offered respectfully as a suggestion, not for some distant day of peace and quiet—which may never come—but for now.



It will be generally agreed, I think, that there is much benefit to the profession in various localized efforts to give recognition to outstanding architectural works of merit. California has done this; the Fifth Avenue Association has done it in New York City; the Washington, D. C. Board of Trade is now doing it, to mention

a few instances. The practice consists of setting up a jury of award to select recently completed meritorious designs under several classifications, and to award certificates of merit to the authors. Photographs of the buildings selected and the names of their architects and owners inevitably receive ample publicity in the local press and frequently far beyond. News of that kind is a "natural" for all avenues of publicity in the community.



The only check to its continued effectiveness is the infrequency of its occasions and the geographical limits involved. Organizing the practice on a nation-wide basis seems a logical and desirable step, and The Institute has the basic machinery for this purpose.

Each of The Institute's ten Regional Directors could be empowered to appoint annually a jury of award, to function within the region's geographic boundaries. Each of these juries—preferably of three to five members—would review the work completed within the last calendar year and, under possibly five categories, award certificates of merit to the authors. The plan would be all the more effective

when and if, as the unification movement promises, each region had for its geographic bounds the perimeter of a state.

The enthusiasm with which local and county newspapers would play up the fact that "our new hospital has just been pronounced by experts the best one built last year in the state," can well be imagined, as well as the architect's hometown paper's emphasis on the fact that "local boy has made good."

Naturally, it is but one more logical step from this series of statewide judgments to a national "final," in which another jury would select from among the regional winners in each category the best buildings of the year for the United States. The reverberation throughout the local press, both in cheers for the confirmation of earlier successes and also in critical comment of the national jury's findings, can easily be pictured.

A word as to juries. At first glance it would appear that an architect's work should be judged only by his peers—a jury composed solely of eminent architects. I think this would be a mistake, limiting the whole scheme to a matter of professional interest. Of greater weight and significance in the public mind would be a diver-

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sified jury, including for example a mayor or city manager, a newspaper editor, or some other well-known person representing the layman's viewpoint. After all, the public has to live with our buildings even more than do those who create them. Selection of a well-balanced and authoritative jury is not the easiest task that falls to an A.I.A. Regional Director. Incidentally, he should be careful not to include an architect whose work might logically be considered for an award in that year. Details of procedure on the part of a jury, it would seem, could be developed without great difficulty. Submis-

sion of nominations, for instance, could well be made to the jury by local groups or chapters, covering their smaller areas, thus limiting considerably the number of buildings to be appraised and the extent of jury travel for personal inspection.

The idea of regional (or state) and national awards under uniform procedure is offered for comment and criticism. If it has serious faults, I trust that these will be pointed out; if in principle it meets with the approval of the architects, let us lose no time in putting it into effect.—HENRY H. SAYLOR, Washington, D. C.

## Violence and Violets

"Just a word of commendation on the new JOURNAL. Not only did I take it home, but I read it aloud to my wife. This has never happened before."—WALTER H. KILHAM, JR., New York.

"I must admit that I am very much disappointed in the general get-up of the magazine, not referring to the contents. If paper is scarce, that still has nothing to do with size. My principal objection is the size. Any and all of the

leading architectural magazines are using a standard form, like *The Octagon* used to be, that may easily be filed. This little booklet, however, is like a manufacturer's pamphlet, has an insignificant look, and it will be impossible to file properly. I hope, therefore, that the size of this JOURNAL will be seriously reconsidered and brought back to the size of *The Octagon*. I believe that it would do no harm, as far as advertising is concerned, if the editorial section of the JOURNAL

would be in the front only, and such advertising as there will be could be in the second half. This, in my opinion, would give the JOURNAL a much more dignified appearance, and could not lower the value of the advertising. . . . — RICHARD KIEHNEL, Miami.

"It's tops! And all the boys in the office think so too. . . . Call on us for contributions if you dare."—H. DALAND CHANDLER, Boston.

"It is, undoubtedly, far more interesting than *The Octagon*. It will be worth what your future contributors are worth, as is the case with any magazine. The small size may induce the architects to carry it on their way home and read it instead of cutting the plates for the office 'morgue.' It may be that the space devoted to 'official business' of The Institute, which was too large in *The Octagon* has become a little scanty now, if I may judge by this Number 1, Volume I. . . ."—PAUL P. CRET, Philadelphia.

"You are quite right in your feeling that you need offer no apology for Vol. I, No. 1 of the JOURNAL. You have produced an

excellent little magazine and *The American City* is glad to be represented in the first issue."—HAROLD S. BUTTENHEIM, Editor, New York.

"No Sir! You do not have to apologize for inaugurating Vol. I of the JOURNAL. It is a long time within my memory since I have so completely read and enjoyed a current architectural publication. . . . The writing contained therein was well selected and informative, the format modern. All together, you have caught the spirit of the times, without too many pages of advertisements; a great help to one who is anxious to get the meat out of a paper."—B. LEO STEIF, Chicago.

"Good work! I like it so much that I am enclosing my check for three additional copies—if you have them."—FREDERICK W. GARBER, Cincinnati.

"I have gone over the new number of the JOURNAL and wish I could say I was enthusiastic. I think the general shape is delightful but I don't think the format as a whole is as distinguished as that of *The Octagon*. My reaction to it is that it looks too much like a house organ for a construction

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I have been reading the R.I.B.A. *Journal* for several years, and have been greatly impressed by the cover. It is bold, professional, and invites continued interest, as does its contents which interest me very much as they have been very much in relation to what has been going on in Great Britain. I think we should try to do the same thing.

Personally, I am a little tired of the soul-searching which goes on by architects . . . I am sure that this type of article does not appeal to the men who are to carry on the work of the profession in the near future. I think our profession should cease being esoteric and we should boldly look at the world and challenge it—challenge it to its betterment. During these last

several years the architect has been forced to meet many difficult conditions, and he has met them extremely well."—RALPH WALKER, New York.

"I applaud with architectural vehemence the first issue of the magazine. Congratulations!"—FREDERICK V. MURPHY, Washington.

"The *JOURNAL* is not only attractive and readable, but also in keeping with the dignity previously had in *The Octagon*. . . . It may be honestly stated that this is the first time I have read an Institute publication from cover to cover with continued interest and pleasure."—PAUL GERHARDT, JR., Chicago.

## Educational Announcements

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, College of Architecture and Design, announces the establishment of a scholarship fund of \$25,000 in this College from the Arthur C. Tagge bequest. For the present it is expected that two scholarships, of \$325 each, will be awarded annually.

Candidates may be students in architecture, landscape architecture,

painting, or design, and shall have been in residence in this college for at least one semester. Preference will ordinarily be given to advanced students.

The first scholarships will be awarded for the fall term of 1944-45. Application should be made before June 1, 1944 to the Office of the Dean, 207 Architecture Building, Ann Arbor, Mich.

CARNEGIE INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY is organizing a course in Community Planning, to be held two evenings a week for sixteen weeks, starting Feb. 14. It will be at postgraduate level, and will be staffed by local and out-of-town men of reputation. Part of the course will be the study of a typical local area and the working out of plans for its development.



MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, City Planning Division, is sponsoring a short training course in City and Regional Planning during the spring of 1944. Open to men and women with professional experience in architecture, landscape architecture, civil engineering, political science or public administration, the course will commence April 3, and will continue for twelve weeks. Lec-

tures and seminars will be held on principles and techniques of planning, social and economic aspects of planning, and planning legislation and administration. These will be supplemented by a program of practical experience, in the form either of in-service training in the offices of planning agencies in the Boston Metropolitan region, or of work on projects selected by the participants and carried on in the drafting room of the City Planning Division at Technology.

The fee for the course is \$125, payable at the time of registration, and participants will be enrolled as special students at M.I.T. The course will not be offered if the registration is less than ten.

Further information may be obtained from Professor Frederick J. Adams, Division of City Planning, Mass. Inst. of Tech., Cambridge 39, Mass.



## Mrs. Henry Bacon

FOR several months past, the New York Chapter, A.I.A. and The Architectural League of N. Y. have been trying to wipe out in small part the nation's debt to

the late Henry Bacon, architect of the Lincoln Memorial. This debt is based on something more than gratitude to the author of one of the country's most beloved posses-

FEBRUARY, 1944

sions; it is based on the cold fact that Henry Bacon spent some \$27,000 of his own money beyond his fee. Among other expenses out of his own pocket were those for travel and subsistence incurred on some 36 trips a year between New York and Washington during the 11 years of the Memorial's design and building. The reason for this belated acknowledgment of indebtedness is that Mrs. Henry Bacon, now 78 years old, is distressed over her inability to earn a living and in constant fear of being dispossessed.

Mr. Edgar Williams reports that the response to the appeals is progressing satisfactorily—largely in the form of \$5 bills engraved with a picture of the Lincoln Memorial. He sends us a letter which accompanied a check from Mr. James Baird who was the builder of the Memorial. In part it reads:

"I had the privilege of accompanying Mr. Bacon on his many supervising tours of the Lincoln Memorial during the several years of its construction.

"I have no words to express my appreciation of his gentle, considerate methods. There was never

enough that we could do for him. Every foreman and many of our workmen felt that way towards him.

"Then, too, I often had the opportunity of observing his ideas of ethics toward other architects. I am quite sure his views on ethics were on a higher and more strict basis than any other architect I ever met in the forty years of my building experience, and that takes in some great architects; notably Stanford White, for whom I directed the construction of the first Munsey Building in Washington; Mr. Cret on the Shakespeare Library; Mr. Charles Platt on the Fraser Building of Washington; Mr. Cass Gilbert on the West Virginia Capitol, and many others.

"I always found that the greater the architect, the more pleasure it was to work for them. I certainly should have mentioned John Russell Pope, for whom I did the McLean and other residences in Washington; and also the York & Sawyer crowd, God bless them.

"But for architectural ethics, and for consideration of the builder, and for a generally lovable character, Mr. Bacon was tops."

"WE can help our people in America to appreciate how honored art should be, by showing honor to the artist."

—ELIHU ROOT



## The Editor's Asides

ARCHITECTS may think they are without honor in their own country. To such we pass along word from the United States Maritime Commission: "We have already assigned the following names to Liberty ships:"

THOMAS JEFFERSON  
HENRY H. RICHARDSON  
JOHN RUSSELL POPE  
CASS GILBERT  
THOMAS U. WALTER  
BENJAMIN LATROBE  
ASHER BENJAMIN  
HENRY BACON  
WILLIAM THORNTON  
RALPH ADAMS CRAM  
CHARLES BULFINCH



BEFORE any more members of The Institute send in checks for their subscriptions to the JOURNAL, we hasten to explain that such payment is not necessary. The JOURNAL comes to Corporate Members and to Honorary Members as part of The Institute's service, just as did *The Octagon*. Subscriptions for associate members and students

may be had at a special price of \$2 yearly; to all others the subscription price is \$3.



ANYONE harboring the thought that the presidency of The Institute is a soft-cushioned throne on which the incumbent accepts his honors and takes his ease, should take a look at the record. On Tuesday, January 11, just as a sample, President Ashton arrived in Los Angeles. By noon he had been interviewed by all the local newspapers—a grilling not unlike the third degree. At a luncheon lasting until three o'clock he met with the Executive Committee of the Southern California Chapter. At four he met with fifty leaders of the profession, discussing current architectural problems. At dinner, with some 160 men from the Los Angeles group, the Santa Barbara group, the Producers' Council, City officials, County officials, Chamber of Commerce and the University. And so to bed. Next day, on to San Diego.

FEBRUARY, 1944

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J. FRAZER SMITH of Memphis has eight men of his office in the armed services. His secretary, who has been on the job for twenty-one years, acts as a clearing house for news of the staff at home and abroad. Weekly, a letter goes out from her desk to each of the eight, giving news of the office and relaying such news of the other seven as they may have sent in.



SIR GILES GILBERT SCOTT, architect of the Anglican Cathedral of Liverpool, has just completed a design for Coventry's new Cathedral. The plans are said to provide a central altar which can be approached by the congregation from all sides. Somewhat larger than the Cathedral partly destroyed by the Germans, the new structure will incorporate the former tower and apse. It will seat some two thousand persons. Sir Giles says that the Cathedral will be Gothic, based on the traditional style, but with a modern interpretation.



PROSPECTIVE COMPETITORS for the tuberculosis sanatorium in County Dublin, Ireland, have been given more time. The original announcement in the architectural

press called for applications to be received in Dublin by March 13—practically debarring American contestants. The Irish Legation, acceding to The Institute's request, has had this date postponed to May 31, 1944. Closing date for drawings is now June 30, 1945.



JUST WHAT the War has done to Paestum remains to be learned. An Army major from Texas, seeking gravel near there for road building, broke through a crust and uncovered a large burial ground of the Stone Age—perhaps older than anything of the kind hitherto discovered in Italy. American power-shovel makes history.



THOSE WHO RECALL the carved and gilded doorway, relic of the Italian Renaissance, that graced the late Whitney Warren's New York apartment, will be glad to learn that it is now in Cooper Union Museum. Whitney Warren, Jr. presented to the Museum the tall wooden structure—some 14 ft. high. Its carving of angels and liturgical motifs on columns and arch suggest its original use as perhaps the superstructure of an altar, framing a painting.

READERS ASK US why we spell "post-War" that way. Our theory is this: "postwar" or "post-war" means after a war, any war—Napoleonic, Civil, or what have you. Just now we are not discussing happenings after any old war but after *this* war, our War—hence post-War. Q.E.D.



PHILADELPHIA is holding a symposium on Plastics this month. Since it is under the sponsorship of the staid A.S.T.M., there is reason to hope that there will not be unloosed another flock of prophecies as to the all-exclusive part plastics will take in the post-War dwelling.



ILLUSTRATIONS suitable for the JOURNAL present something of a problem. Ruling out photographs of current work, as a field belonging to the commercial architectural magazines, there is left to us chiefly the historical and the purely inspirational categories. In the former

field, magazines and books have uncovered a large part of what is interesting, but the supply will never be exhausted. In the field of the purely inspirational, the photographic salons occasionally offer examples. Architects whose hobby is photography could, and should, come to the JOURNAL's rescue. Let's show what architectural photographs can be when independent of factual data as to where the subject is and who designed it.



Now that your editor has joined the (ch)airborne para(graph) troopers in Washington, he would welcome news of Chapter activities, State Association doings, of individual members of the profession, and of significant architectural happenings throughout the country. Not having at our disposal a corps of reporters, we venture to suggest that all of our readers accept induction into the JOURNAL staff, with all the obvious duties and privileges appertaining thereto.

"I THINK the only public relations effort worth the name is to do our job well and not keep it a secret."—HERBERT J. POWELL, Los Angeles.

"THE standardization of building produces deadly monotony, whereas the standardization of parts promotes variety and encourages invention in design."—ERNEST FLAGG.

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